

air on Capitol Hill and when he spoke, people listened.

Cope will be greatly missed and never forgotten. My thoughts are with his wife Terrie as well as the people of Lemhi County.

HONORING BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four courageous police officers, who risked their lives providing aid to two people who escaped a burning car and rescuing another two people from the car on January 28, 2023, in Brownsville, Texas.

Brownsville, Texas is home to over 187,000 residents who are served by the Brownsville Police Department. Their unwavering commitment to the protection of our communities was put on nationwide display when Brownsville was named the 16th safest city in the United States. Their work was more recently recognized due to the lifesaving cooperation between the Brownsville PD and other emergency services personnel on January 28.

At the 2:00 a.m. hour of January 28, first responders were called to the scene of a single-vehicle crash. When the officers arrived, they discovered the vehicle had been flipped over. While 2 men had managed to escape with noticeable injuries, there was a time-sensitive emergency still happening in the vehicle. The officers were notified of 2 others still trapped in the burning vehicle and they quickly reacted to save their lives. Body cam footage showed the dramatic situation as police officers pulled these 2 men to safety, who were actively being burned inside the vehicle, which was still engulfed in flames.

With amazing assistance from the Brownsville Fire Department, Patrol Officer Erik Balboa, Officer Erick Amaro, Officer Federico Jaramillo, and Officer Gilberto Hernandez were able to breach the burning vehicle's doors and save the people in the car.

Our first responders are often unsung heroes, but today we get the amazing opportunity to praise and thank the Brownsville Police Department for their heroic work and for their constant commitment to the safety and security of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Officers Balboa, Amaro, Jaramillo, and Hernandez, the Brownsville Police Department, and all first responders who dedicate their lives to our amazing communities, and thank them. I have no doubt that these heroes will continue to go above and beyond to provide lifesaving support to those in need, and I am forever thankful for their service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF WILLIAM LOUSHINE

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Bill" Loushine, who

died February 26 in Chisholm at the age of 102. Bill graduated from Chisholm High School in 1939 and received his BS degree in 1943 from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. During WWII, Bill served as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in the South Pacific and as company commander of the Chisholm Army National Guard Unit, where he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War with the 47th Infantry Division of the Minnesota Army National Guard. Upon his return from Korea in 1953, he continued to serve in the National Guard for 25 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Bill was a teacher and a coach in Chisholm for 36 years. He coached swimming, baseball, and curling. He was the coach of Chisholm's 1948 state championship winning baseball team, and the 1963 state championship curling team. Bill started a junior bonspiel in Chisholm in 1963 and continued to run it for 20 years until 1983. While in his 80s, Bill wrote a 32-page history of the Chisholm Curling Club from 1960 to 2010. This book has allowed Chisholm's flourished curling history to live on. Bill continued to curl well into his 90s.

Bill was devout in his faith. He served on the liturgy and pastoral councils in the St. Joseph's Parish, and as a commentator, lector, and Eucharistic minister, as well. Bill served for many years in the Charter and Planning Commission and as Citizens Committee Director in the Department of Military Affairs. All these accolades serve as a testament to Bill's commitment to community engagement and the Iron Range. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill when I presented him with a flag that was flown over the Capitol in honor of his 100th birthday 2 years ago. His service to his country and his community made our Nation and our State a better place to live. I thank Bill. The Iron Range has truly lost a giant. Rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2023, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

On June 1, 2022, the FRTIB launched a new system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There have been widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service. While many problems have been fixed, problems remain.

As of December 2022, TSP had approximately 6.8 million participants and \$765,154,000,000 in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Fed-

eral employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has oversight responsibility for TSP, as it does for private sector 401(k) plans, there is currently no IG for the FRTIB. The problems with the new TSP system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHILIP INNES ESCHBACH, JR., "THE COLONEL"

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a true southern gentleman and patriot of great distinction, Mr. Philip Innes Eschbach, Jr., affectionately known as "The Colonel".

During World War II, Mr. Eschbach was stationed in Dijon, France, where, despite the odds of survival, he piloted a B-26 Martin Marauder on 56 bomber flights against the Axis in Italy and France.

During the war he received the French Croix de Guerre. More recently, on May 4, 2013, he was further personally honored by the French government for his heroic deeds in the liberation of their country when they made him an honorary commandant. His daughter, Mary, coordinated his itinerary, and his son, Phil, accompanied him on his trip back to France for the festivities.

After the war, Mr. Eschbach earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Florida. He became active in community affairs and began teaching school. Katie, I, and many others were fortunate enough to have him as an English teacher before he went on to teach in high school and college.

He never shared any of his war experiences with his students, and they were unknown to me, until he wrote his memoirs in 2004 in a book titled, THE KICKING MULES.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this hero, dedicated teacher, friend, and role model to so many, congratulations for completing another mission—his upcoming 100th orbit around the Sun.

Happy Birthday to the Colonel.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Kentucky colleague in the Senate Chamber, Republican Leader MITCH MCCONNELL who recently became the longest-serving party leader in American history. On January 3, 2023, Senator MCCONNELL surpassed the record held by

Democratic Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana. Since 2006, Senator McCONNELL has won the respect and trust of his colleagues who have rightly given him their vote of confidence nine consecutive times to lead the Republican conference.

Senator McCONNELL started breaking records early in his career. When he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984, it was the first time that a Republican had won a statewide race in sixteen years. In fact, his election gave Republicans a newfound confidence Kentucky politics, and he remains the longest-serving senator in Kentucky history. His historic service is marked by courageous legislation, a stronger national defense, and a transformation of the federal judiciary. During his service as Majority Leader, he led Senate confirmation of three justices and 30 percent of circuit court judges nationwide.

Senator McCONNELL and I share a mutual mentor from southern Kentucky, the late Senator John Sherman Cooper. Senator McCONNELL's success in public service reflects the many values that Senator Cooper shared with us, including unwavering perseverance, wisdom in negotiations, visionary leadership, and astutely serving as a "consummate bridge builder," as Senator McCONNELL once described our mentor.

Together, we have partnered on countless projects for the benefit of our fellow Kentuckians, and I count it a great honor to call Senator McCONNELL a close friend and valiant ally in public service. I applaud Senator McCONNELL on achieving this significant milestone in American history and I wish him continued success on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING MARY GATTON'S SELFLESS CARE FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mary Gatton for her selfless commitment to the care of cancer victims, the terminally ill, and their families. Ms. Gatton recently received Business First's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' as a part of the Health Care Heroes program.

At age 79, Ms. Gatton has spent much of her adult life supporting sick patients, the dying, and their families, through her work at Hospice/Hosparus Health, Inc. and Gilda's Club.

Many struggle to find words of comfort for those experiencing grief and loss, but not Ms. Gatton; she is truly 'there' for those in need, whether sitting at hospital bedsides with dying patients, in the waiting rooms with family members helping provide peace and understanding, facilitating a support group, comforting a newly diagnosed or newly bereaved person, leading a memorial service, or simply assisting at an event to support patients and caregivers.

As a single mother of four children, Ms. Gatton pursued a bachelor's degree in social work in 1977, in the hopes that hospice care would one day make its way to the U.S. The National Hospice Organization wasn't even

created until 1978, when it then began to promote the concept of hospice care. Congress passed a provision to create a Medicare hospice benefit in the 1980s, by which time Gatton had earned a master's degree in social work.

Karen Morrison, CEO of Gilda's Club explains, "The number of lives Mary has touched in her career is immeasurable. Everywhere I go in the community, people remember the impact she made for them . . ."

Ms. Gatton is a shining example of the dedication that defines end-of-life care. I offer my congratulations to Ms. Gatton for her well-deserved award and thank her from the bottom of my heart for her loving care of our families and departed loved ones. She is an Angel.

HONORING SHIRLENE ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Anderson.

Shirlene Anderson is the former deputy director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), where she retired after 32 years of service. Shirlene's law enforcement career began in 1976, when Doris Johnson-Holt and Shirlene Anderson made history together, becoming the first 2 Black/African American females to serve as agents of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN).

When Shirlene Anderson was promoted through the ranks from Agent, to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major to Lieutenant Colonel she became the first female. During her tenure with MBN, she served as District Supervisor of a field office responsible for narcotics operations in 10 counties.

She also served as Regional Supervisor of 4 field offices in North MS (Greenwood, Oxford, Tupelo and Starkville). In October 1997, she was appointed as Chief of Enforcement/Deputy Director, (Lieutenant Colonel) where she managed enforcement operations for the entire State of Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Shirlene retired in 2004 from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. On July 7, 2005, Shirlene Anderson was appointed first female Chief of Police for the City of Jackson, MS Police Department (Capital City). Shirlene is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she completed her bachelor's degree in education.

She is a graduate of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Class 47B, Sep 1991 (MLEOTA, Whitfield, MS). She also graduated from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Academy and The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy. Shirlene volunteers with a program, "Getting Ahead while Getting Out" with the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and a Board Member of Alcohol Services Center, Inc.

Shirlene has volunteered with the National Federation of the Blind, and Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service/Connect 1 Summits. Shirlene is a lifetime member of National Organization of Law Enforcement Executives (NOLE), Mississippi Valley State University Alumni, and a Member of Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in Leland, MS.

Some of the State and Federal drug investigation cases Shirlene was involved in: Frederick Dotson, Greenville, MS seized firearms, crack, powder Cocaine and money during the investigation; James "J. J." McNeil, California millionaire and drug kingpin, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana; Jeff Fort, Chicago, IL and MS conspiracy, drugs, and weapons conviction; Fort Co-founder and leader of Black P. Stones and Founder of El Rukn Chicago; James Albert "Sonny" King Tallahatchie County, Hattie Ray King, Johnny Wayne King, and Jerome Lewis charged in distributing of cocaine and marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shirlene Anderson for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING MR. RON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special resident of Center, Missouri.

Mr. Ron Evans has served on the school board in Ralls County, Missouri for 30 years. In 1967, Ron graduated from Mark Twain High School. His wife, Judy, their 3 children, and several grandchildren have all been students at Mark Twain High School. He was elected to the Ralls County R-II School Board in 1993 and went on to serve 9 more three-year terms, at times serving as President.

Over the course of Ron's 30 years of service to the district, many changes have occurred including the consolidation of all Ralls County communities into one education building. Ron has been involved with more than \$20 million dollars of renovations and projects.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ron Evans on his retirement. I ask you to join me in thanking him for his service to his community and for being an outstanding leader. I am proud to represent Mr. Evans in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED HOFFMEISTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Alfred "Al" Hoffmeister.

Al was born in New York and was named after former governor of New York, Alfred Emanuel Smith. Throughout his life, Al has exemplified his dedication to his community and his country. Al was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps working with B-17 Flying Fortress—China/Burma/India Theater. Following his service, he studied business administration at St. John's University. He then began working as a metal trading manager with Kaiser Aluminum of Oakland, California where he met his future wife, Georgia Belle Davis.